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SHORT COMMUNICATION

The occurrence of seaweed flies (Diptera: Coelopidae) on the Isle of Islay.—The two British species of seaweed fly, *Coelopa frigida* (F.) and *C. pilipes* Hal., breed on beds of decomposing wrack formed by seaweed deposited on the shore during high tides or during storms. An early map describing the distribution of the genus in Britain was concerned primarily with mainland shores and therefore largely ignored the islands lying off the west coast of Scotland (Dobson, 1974). A more recent map (Phillips *et al.*, 1995; primarily from data collected by T. H. Day at the University of Nottingham), concerning the wider European distribution of the genus, does signify the presence of *C. frigida* on Uist in the Outer Hebrides but gives no information for any of the other Hebridean islands. To augment the knowledge of the distribution of the genus in this area, I recently (5.xi.95 to 8.xi.95) sampled four sites on the Isle of Islay in the Inner Hebrides. The sites covered the extreme east and west of the island and the shores along Loch Indaal in the centre of the island. To sample, I disturbed wrack material on the shore and gathered any flies which emerged by 'aspirating' using a portable car vacuum cleaner (Black & Decker Ltd, Spennymoor, Co. Durham). Each sample consisted of the flies collected in a 15-minute period. The flies collected are summarized below.

Machair Bay (NR207630)—*C. frigida*; males 8, females 17. *C. pilipes*; 0.

Bowmore (NR310600)—*C. frigida*; males 24, females 44. *C. pilipes*; 0.

Black Rock (NR305630)—*C. frigida*; 0. *C. pilipes*; 0.

Port Askaig (NR432693)—*C. frigida*; 0. *C. pilipes*; 0.

Although there is some inconsistency, the results confirm the occurrence of *Coelopa frigida* on Islay and provide no evidence of the presence of *C. pilipes*. This data supports Phillips *et al.* (1995) who suggested that *C. pilipes* is relatively scarce in the north-west of the British Isles, possibly reaching the edge of its geographic range.

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